REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are now pending in the application. Amendments to claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 – 15 have been made to correct minor informalities. The basis for the added claims 18 - 26 can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. Similarly, support for new paragraph [0040.1] describing the cover plates having a raised edge is clearly shown in Figures 1 and 4B as originally filed. As such, paragraph [0040.1] does not constitute new matter.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3-20-2002

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The following is a marked up version of each replacement paragraph and/or section of the specification in which underlines indicate insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

[0038] The storage container 10 of the present invention allows the apertures of the hinge portion to be formed without the need of a metal rod for forming the apertures. The configuration of the cover 14 and the base 12 illustrated in Figures 2A-3E include hinge portions 76 and 86, respectively. The hinge member 76 of cover 14 [including] includes tab portions 78 which are formed from a die configuration that creates cavity sections 82 (Fig. 2B) in a direction perpendicular to the plane of cover 14. Additionally, the die allows cavity sections 84 (viewed from Figure 2E) to be formed in a direction parallel to the plane of cover 14 and in a location between cavity sections 82. The insert portions of the die are strategically located such that cavity sections 82 and 84 cooperate to form a continuous passage 88 (Figures 2B and 2D) which is created without the need for additional steps involving a metal rod die insert as is required with conventional hinge molding techniques.

[0046] Referencing Figures 10 and 11, the mold used to construct the cover 14 of the storage container 10 will now be described. The tool 140 includes a first, [and] second, and third die member 136, [and] 144, and 138. Die 136 includes vertical pegs 142 extending therefrom [and tab sections 150]. The base 12 is molded from a similar tool having a corresponding peg and tab arrangement which are offset

from those of the cover tool 140 such that the molded parts cooperate to form a hinge.

As such, a similar die arrangement is used to mold the cover plates 16, 18.

[0049] In a third general step, the first, [and] second, and third die members 136, [and] 144, and 138 are removed to reveal a cover 14 having a first continuous passage 88.

Please add the following paragraph on Page 8 between paragraphs [0040] and [0041].

[0040.1] As best shown in Figure 4B, cover plates 16, 18 further include a raised lip or edge 62. Raised edge 62 is preferably formed around the side walls 55 and at least a portion of the top wall 56 of the cover plates. Raised edge 62 provides increased structural strength and rigidity to cover plates 16, 18. In this manner, raised edge 62 resists twisting and fatigue associated with repeated manipulation of the cover plates. In a preferred orientation, the raised edge 62 extends toward inner surface 22 and 34 of the cover and base respectively.

ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS Serial No. 09/840,278

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicate insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

Claims 18-26 have been added.

1. (Amended) A storage container comprising:

a base portion having a first series of hinge sections;

a cover portion having a second series of hinge sections connected to said base portion said base and cover portions being closeable defining an outer shell and an internal space;

[a base portion having a first series of hinge sections;]

a first inner lid portion including a first end with a third series of hinge sections connected to said base portion and said cover portion;

a second inner lid portion including a first end with a fourth series of hinge sections connected to said base portion and said cover portion; and

wherein said first, second, third and fourth hinge sections cooperate to form a single elongated hinge[;].

[said base and cover portions are closeable defining an outer shell and an internal space.]

2. (Amended) The storage container according to claim 1, wherein one of said base and cover portions includes a latch, said latch being slidable between a [first] locked position and [a] an [second] unlocked position.

- 4. (Amended) The storage container according to claim 3, wherein said first and second inner lid portions [each] include a <u>first and second</u> latch <u>respectively</u>, said <u>first and second</u> latch slidable between a [first] locked position for engaging said first and second inner lid portions to a respective one of said base portion and said cover portion and a [second] <u>an</u> unlocked position for disengaging said first and second inner lid portions from said respective base and cover portions.
- 6. (Amended) The storage container according to claim 5, wherein said base and said cover portions include[s] at least one internal lateral divider wall having a series of locating tabs extending therefrom.
- 8. (Amended) The storage container according to claim 7, wherein said adjustable divider includes a first and second side having a first and a second end, said first and second sides [are] being flared outwardly at said first and second ends.
 - 10. (Amended) A storage container comprising:

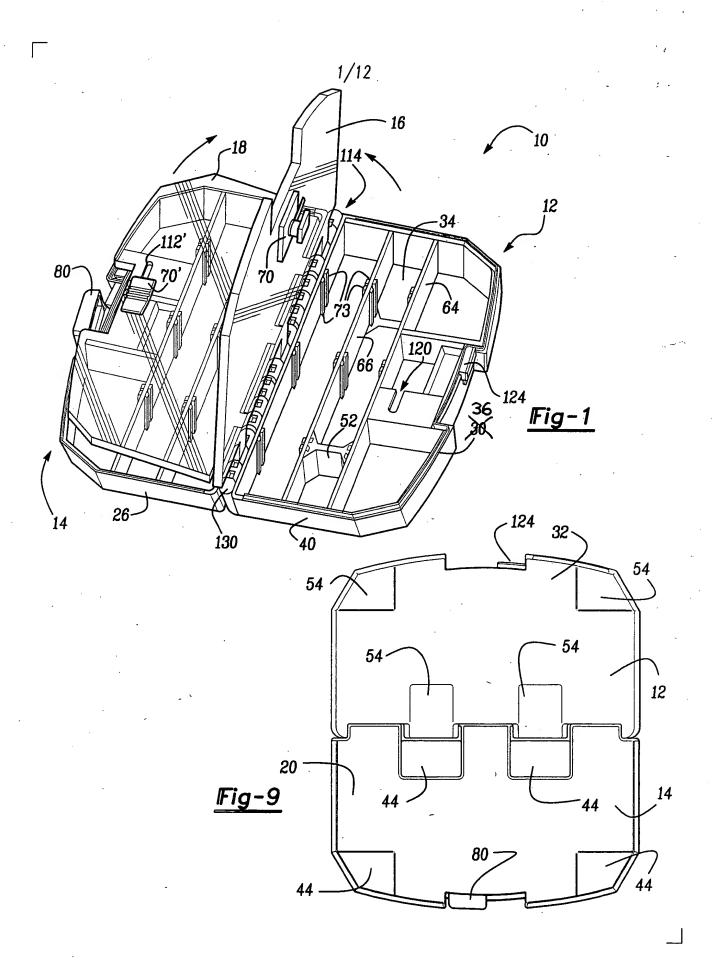
a base portion; <u>and</u>

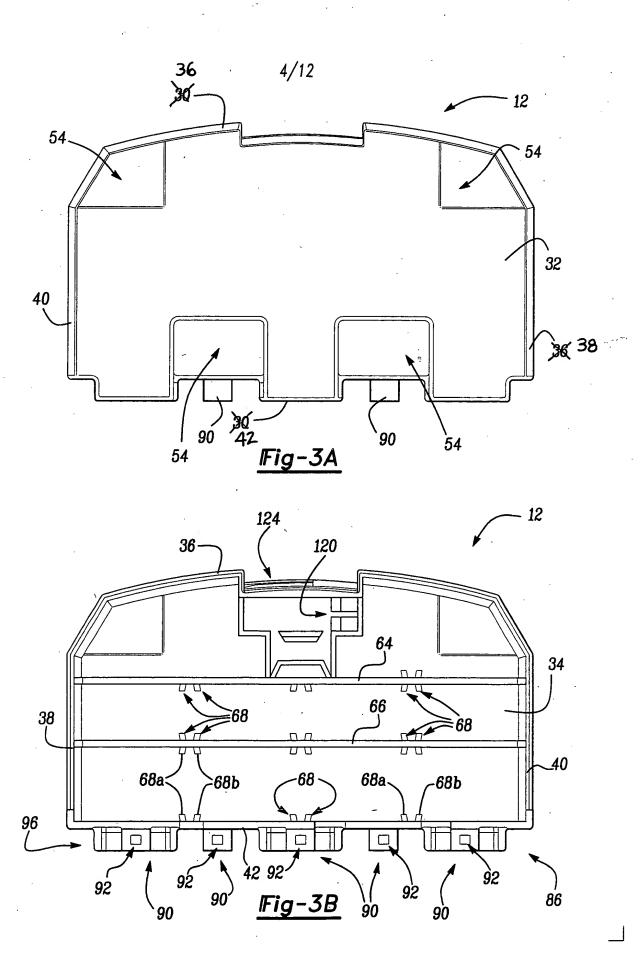
a cover portion hingedly attached to said base portion, one of said base and cover portions including an inner side having a circumferential wall and at least one upright divider wall having a series of tabs extending therefrom, and at least one removable spacer adapted to selectively interfit with said tabs of said circumferential wall and said divider wall, said spacer having a first end section, middle section and

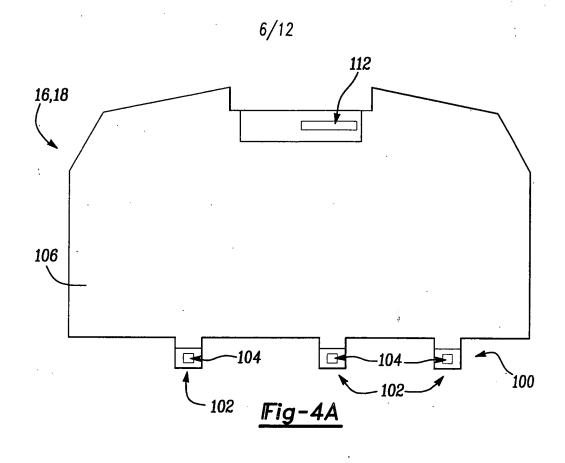
second end section, said first and second end sections having larger cross sections than said middle section.

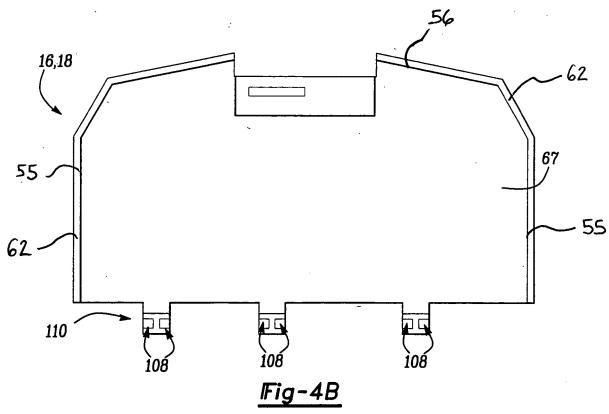
- 12. (Amended) The storage container according to claim 10, wherein one of said base and cover portion includes a latch, said latch slidable between a locked position and an unlocked position.
- 13. (Amended) The storage container according to claim 10, further comprising first and second inner lids hingedly connected to said base portion and said cover portion, said first and second inner lids each [include] including a latch slidable between a locked position for engaging said first and second inner lid portions to said respective base and cover portions and an unlocked position.
- 14. (Amended) The storage container according to claim 13, wherein [said] <u>a</u> latch of one of said first and second lids abuts the other <u>latch</u> of said first and second lids when in an unlocked position as said base and cover portions are pivoted from an open position [to] <u>toward</u> a closed position <u>thereby precluding the container from reaching said closed position</u>.
 - 15. (Amended) A storage container, comprising:
 - a base portion;
 - a cover portion hingedly attached to said base portion; and
 - a first and second inner lid each hingedly connected to said base portion

and said cover portion, said first and second inner lids each including a latch slidable between a locked position for engaging said first and second inner lid portions to a respective base and cover portion and an unlocked position, wherein said latch of said first and second lids abuts the other latch of said first and second lids when in an unlocked position as said base and cover portions are pivoted from an open position to a closed position preventing said base and cover portions from fully closing.









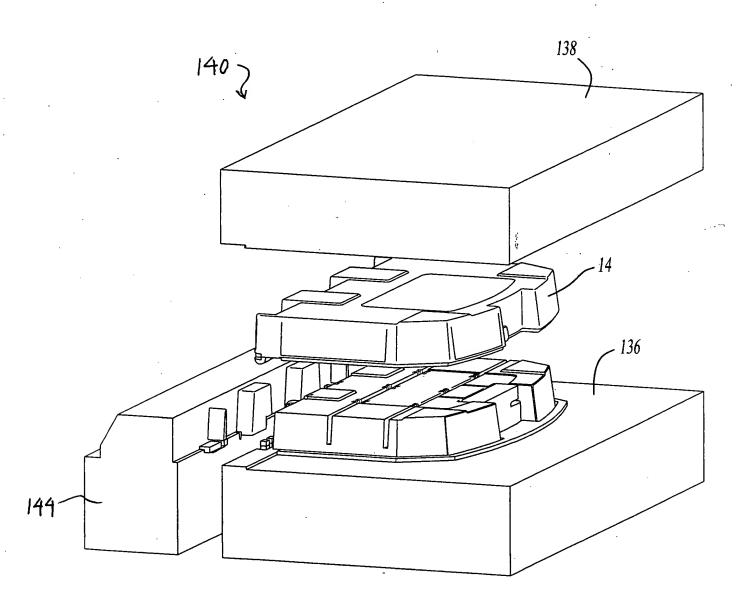


Fig-10A